Introduction: *Illustrate the spiritual world using the animal world.*

Share some or all of these photos portraying real-life camouflage of animals: [https://allthatsinteresting.com/animal-camouflage-pictures](https://allthatsinteresting.com/animal-camouflage-pictures)

Add something like the following in your own words: “In today’s session, we’re going to see how Elisha ‘un-camouflaged’ the spiritual world. Like these hidden animals, God’s spiritual beings were visible for those who had eyes to see.”

**Point 2: Open people’s eyes to biblical imagery.**

After discussing the passage in Point 2, repeat Elisha’s prayer from verse 17: “LORD, please open his eyes and let him see.”

Share a time in your own life when you didn’t have eyes of faith to understand what was going on around you. Invite a few learners to share the same.

Share some or all of the following verses that discuss being spiritually aware through the imagery of having “open eyes”: [https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=open+eye&qs_version=CSB](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=open+eye&qs_version=CSB)

Then challenge group members with the question: “When was the last time you prayed this for yourself or someone else?” As a group, make plans to pray for one another’s spiritual eyes to be opened.

**Point 3: Cite historical examples of loving one’s enemies.**

Before discussing Point 3, state the following in your own words: “We all know that the Bible teaches us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matt. 5:44). But how often do we take this seriously?”
Provide time for volunteers to reflect upon or share how they obey or disobey this command.

Share some of the following examples of showing compassion and kindness toward one’s enemies from this article about World War 2:

Then raise the following discussion questions:

- What do we reveal to the unbelieving world when we’re truly kind to our enemies?
- How do we glorify God when we treat even those who hate us with love?

**Conclusion: Consider some heart application.**

Use the information in the “My Mission” portion of the Leader Guide (page 50) to point out the king of Aram’s hard heart. Then put the following into your own words: “We can’t miss this point; our hearts can become hardened just like this unbelieving king, even in the face of God’s mercy.”

If time allows, show the following video clip with Shane Idleman, “Four Signs of a Hard Heart” (5 minutes, 25 seconds):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEzZLiED7es

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

Don’t let today’s session get derailed by the concept of seeing spiritual beings in our everyday world. This can easily take the focus away from the main point of the session, which is the power and mercy of God. Be mindful to keep people’s curiosity and your own in check as you present the material.